

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	Poland	REPORT		25X1
SUBJECT	1. Transfer of the S.S. LECH and DABROWSKI DATE DISTR. 11 June 1954 to the Soviet Maritime Register			
	2. Looting of Foodstuffs by Dockers in Gdynia	NO. OF PAGES	2	
DATE OF INFO.		REQUIREMENT		25X1
PLACE ACQUIRED		25X1 REFERENCES		25X1

1. The S.S. LECH (Hull-Gdynia line) is due to go for overhaul to Gdansk (Danzig) Shipyard in April 1954, and subsequently she will be entered in the Soviet Maritime Register. It is anticipated that the LECH will remain in the shipyard for five months, but [] it is doubtful whether the overhaul will be completed in less than seven months. While the LECH is out of service, her place will be taken by the S.S. CZECH, now sailing on the Lewant Line (sic).
2. The S.S. DABROWSKI (London-Gdynia line) is due to leave Gdansk Shipyard in August or September 1954, and she is also to be taken over by the Soviet Maritime Register.
3. The management of P.L.O. (Polish Ocean Lines) has expressed dissatisfaction with the order to transfer the above-named ships to the Soviet Register and that their overhauls are to be carried out in Poland. Efforts to change this decision in the Ministry of Shipping have been in vain.¹
4. The P.L.O. bases its argument on the facts that overhauls carried out in Poland are more costly than in foreign shipyards, and Polish shipyards as a rule do not abide by schedules. The ships, therefore, cannot be fully exploited, and this leads to claims for non-completion of the plan. The fact that the Soviet Maritime Register is much more exacting than its [] counterpart, is another reason for P.L.O.'s apprehension.
5. Quarrels between the officer responsible for the cargo and dockers are taking place with increasing frequency in Gdynia during loading of foodstuffs, especially bacon. These quarrels arise in consequence of numerous thefts of food. Deck officers are powerless, because they are afraid to call in the militia for fear of being knifed by colleagues of the culprit after the arrest.

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STATE	X	ARMY	X	NAVY	X	AIR	X	FBI		AEC						
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(Note: Washington Distribution Indicated By "X"; Field Distribution By "#".)

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[REDACTED]

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As an example [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] the dockers in the hold were slashing open bags of bacon and cutting off whole strips. When the officer remonstrated, the dockers showed him their knives and invited him to come down to them and take away the meat.

1. [REDACTED] Comment: [REDACTED]

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considerable pressure was being brought by the Party on the Polish Merchant Marine to transfer all ships to the Soviet Register. At that time the Technical Inspectorate of P.L.O. was strongly opposed to this, stressing Poland's lack of spare parts.

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